

Feb. 15, 2020

Nunavut Impact Review Board

Re: Baffinland Iron Mine Phase 2 Application.

Dear Sir/ Madam:

Good day. I am writing in regards to the Baffinland Iron Mines application for Phase 2 expansion.

My name is Philip Uvilluk. I work for BIM as an Apprenticeship Coordinator, prior to that I was a Powerhouse Mechanic, both at Nuluujaat and Qingua. I'm a Heavy Duty Mechanic by trade, holding a H.D. Mechanic ticket as well as Interprovincial Heavy Equipment Mechanic. I went through my apprenticeship program in 1970s, working at Nanisivik Mine, attending trade schools in Ft. Smith and S.A.I.T. in Calgary, Alta. I had worked as a mechanic and as a consultant in many parts of the country, territories, provinces as well in United States. I had also had supervisory and senior management positions, both for private (mining, construction) and governments.

In my present position, prior to Covid 19, I meet with apprentices, providing support, counselling, as well as meeting with supervisors and managers in different departments of the mine, both in Nuluujaat and Qingua. I speak to other Inuit workers, helpers at maintenance shops, providing support, meet with their supervisors when there are concerns which require attention. I make reports every rotation which I pass onto my supervisors.

I enjoy my work, this is an exciting time, starting to have trades training programs as well as other training for different types of work for Inuit. There will be jobs and training, plus benefits for communities for many years in future. Inuit feel comfortable communicating with me, I understand their culture, language. They have respect for their elders. I also understand the industry, the requirements to work, the responsibilities, skills, etc.

There had been good cooperation, from workers from southern Canada, as well as northerners, Inuit and others. BIM has good policies, anti harassment, etc. Mining and construction is a small world, we all understand our skills needs, responsibilities.

Baffinland Iron Mines has done their part, they give communities money, food as well as paying workers while they are home. Mine provides jobs, training, comfortable living quarters, full meals, entertainment, support, counselling plus other benefits. The benefits, jobs, well being, wages are and will be enormous, to individuals, local contractors, communities for now and in the future. Think of local Inuit in supervisory, management positions in the future.

BIM had studied many routes for the railroad from Nuluujaat to Qingua, while communicating with local communities, due to engineering challenges, costs, they had stuck to this route. (A final feasibility study for a mine, they will not open a mine unless profit is certain percentage) A railroad will also cut down on road dust from heavy trucks hauling ore. They will crush ore at Qingua in an enclosed building, furthering less dust flying everywhere.

From KM. 1 to roughly KM. 60 (approximate), the terrain is all rock, where we do not see caribou. Hunters from Pond Inlet hunt caribou past Km. 70 as well as south of Nuluujaat.. I had worked in Raglan Mine in northern Quebec where caribou migrate. There are caribou around there from spring till fall, even with blasting and heavy equipment noise. Having grown up around Igloolik area, south of Nuluujaat is our hunting and fishing area, where the mining will have minimal effect on game, as well towards Qingua where no caribou sets foot. Qamanituaq and Rankin Inlet where they have mines nearby do not seem too concerned about loss of game. Besides caribou are a unique animal, they have a 70 year cycle, when numbers climb and go to minimal numbers.

Some of main concerns Inuit have at nearby communities are with land claims organizations not sharing with local communities. These can be ironed out by all Inuit parties.

Qujanamiik, Naquqmiik, Mahtna
Philip Uvilluk.